POLITICAL SCIENCE WEEKLY DIGEST  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2018

POLITICAL SCIENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

POLI GRAD ORIENTATION SCHEDULE  
Wednesday, September 12, 8:30 am -12:30 pm, ELL 161  
Friday, September 14, 1:30-5:30 pm, DTB A357  
TA orientation for new AND returning TAs. Contact TAC, Mehdi (@uvic.ca).

POLI SPEAKERS SERIES: DR. EMILY BEAUSOLEIL  
Massey University, Auckland, New Zealand and Visiting Scholar, Department of Political Science  
Tuesday, September 11, 2:30 pm, DTB A357  
“Listening to Claims of Structural Injustice: Challenges and Directions for Receptivity, Relation, and Response from Advantaged Groups”

Listening appears as elusive as it is crucial to democratic life, particularly in conditions of structural injustice. Dominant groups benefit from histories and habits of inattention and, when enlisted, common responses of denial, defensiveness, and resentment. What lies behind this pervasive and persistent failure to listen to claims of structural injustice by more advantaged groups, and what does this mean for democratic engagement? This paper addresses this question via three interventions: first, it develops a novel account of listening that highlights why listening to claims of structural injustice often proves particularly difficult. Second, it examines how inhabiting positions of relative advantage shapes whether and how people listen to such claims. Finally, it explores the implications these challenges have for the design of democratic processes that seek to engage advantaged groups regarding structural injustice. To develop this account, I draw together current scholarship regarding listening and structural injustice with original fieldwork of recent and current efforts to engage more advantaged communities regarding a specific form of structural injustice: specifically, interviews and observation of the ten organizations across Aotearoa New Zealand most active in efforts to engage communities regarding socioeconomic inequality in the country.

POLI UNDERGRAD ANNUAL MEET & GREET  
Wednesday, September 19 4:30-6 pm, DTB A102  
Mark your calendars for the annual POLI Undergrad Meet and Greet. This annual event is a great opportunity to share information about the department as well as build a strong connection with our incoming students. Please RSVP to Rosemary at poliao@uvic.ca.

UVic ANNOUNCEMENTS

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT TALK  
“Perceiving Political Polarization in the United States: Exaggeration, Ideology, and Implications for Climate Policy”  
Professor Van Boven, Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience, U Colorado Boulder
Politics offers a lens on ordinary social psychology. How divided are Democrats and Republicans in the United States? How do ordinary people perceive political polarization? How does perceived polarization influence political behavior? What are the implications of polarization for the most pressing issues of our time such as addressing climate change? We examined these questions with data from nearly four decades of nationally representative samples, field studies, and controlled laboratory experiments. We found that people exaggerate divisions between Democrats’ and Republicans’ political attitudes. For example, people overestimate how much Democrats support increased spending on government services and how much Republicans oppose government spending. These exaggerated perceptions of polarization predict political actions such as voting and campaign contributions. Polarization perceptions are also egocentric. Ideologues who identify strongly as Democrats or Republicans and who hold concordant partisan attitudes perceive the sharpest divides between Democrats and Republicans. Perceptions of polarization foment a social-political system that impedes action on climate policy. Both Democrats and Republicans exhibit partisan evaluations of climate policy, arbitrarily favoring their own party’s ideas. Although these social-political psychological processes seem intractable, they may be surmounted through psychologically wise interventions.

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES LANSDOWNE SPEAKER
“Cinemas of the City: Remediating Spaces in the New Havana”
Susan Lord, Queen’s University
Friday, Sept 21, 2:30-3:30 PM, COR B129

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY LANSDOWNE SPEAKER
Joseph Gone, Harvard University
“Re/Counting Coup: Communicating Indigenous Vitality in the Age of Historical Trauma”
Tuesday, September 25, 7-9 PM, Ceremonial Hall, First People’s House
A clinical-community psychologist by training, Dr. Joseph Gone explores the cultural psychology of self, identity, personhood, and social relations in Indigenous community settings vis-à-vis the mental health professions. In this lecture, he will talk about the disproportionately high degrees of psychiatric distress suffered by contemporary indigenous peoples throughout the USA and Canada. In this presentation, Gone describes various historical functions of Gros Ventre war narratives or coup tales, including their role in conveying or communicating life or vitality. Through comparative consideration of the “trauma narrative” and the “coup tale,” an alternative framework for cultivating Indigenous community resilience rather than vulnerability will be proposed on the basis of these fundamentally incompatible discursive practices.

TRANSGENDER STUDIES, SOCIOLOGY LANSDOWNE SPEAKER
Samuel Singer, Faculty of Law, TRU
“Trans Rights are (not just) Human Rights”
Friday, September 28, 7-9 PM, Fraser 158

EXTERNAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

FACULTY POSITION IN CANADIAN POLITICS-PUBLIC LAW, U OF TORONTO SCARBOROUGH
Application deadline: Thursday, November 15
The Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto Scarborough invites applications for a full-time, tenure stream appointment in Canadian Politics, with a specialization in Public Law. The appointment will be at the rank of Assistant Professor and will commence July 1, 2019. The successful candidate will teach in the undergraduate program at the University of Toronto Scarborough, including in its Public Law program. Information about the Public Law program can be found at: https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/polisci/public-law. We expect the successful candidate to take a leading role in developing the Public Law program. The successful candidate will also be a member of the tri-campus Graduate Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto and expected to teach graduate courses and supervise graduate students in their areas of research expertise. Information about the graduate department of Political Science at the University of Toronto can be found at: http://politics.utoronto.ca/. All qualified candidates are invited to apply by clicking https://utoronto.taleo.net/careersection/10050/jobdetail.ftl

FACULTY POSITIONS IN INDIGENOUS POLITICS, U OF TORONTO SCARBOROUGH
Closing date: Monday, October 15
The University of Toronto Scarborough invites applications for two tenure-stream appointments in the field of Indigenous Politics. The primary appointment will be in the Department of Political Science (51%), with a cross appointment to the Centre for Critical Development Studies (49%). For more info contact Sue-Ann Hicks, sahicks@utsc.utoronto.ca.

The Political Science Weekly Digest is a weekly e-mail newsletter and biweekly in the summer. It’s also available online http://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/politicalscience/home/news/index.php
If you have an item for the newsletter or would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact poliao@uvic.ca

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